

D75 DEATH OF MRS J.G. CLAUSING, WIFE  
1929 OF USA MARINE OFFICER AS RESULT  
OF FIRE?

12 3 27 A KRISSEL, LIEUT J. CLAUSING, COL LYMAN,  
DR W.K. NANCE, CAPT J.E. SNOW, LT.  
LELAND, RC. BARDY, SGT REY. D.  
TOKMACHEFF, LT W.J. STAMPER, CAPT  
J.P. EVANS, DR VELLIOT,

D75

D-75



# Memorandum.

Shanghai, 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1927.

To .. A. C. (B.)

— 112 —

no other information  
available, other than that  
given at the inquest.

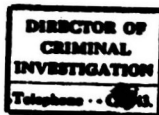
H. Condit

(Sept.)

Let all newspapers  
report, or the best at  
any rate should be  
attached

72/3

by



C.I.D. HEADQUARTERS  
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.

19.....

M.A.C. (or)

Has Conducted  
any information  
in to ?

12/3. Lca

Supp 17.  
For report  
Tanner. R  
12/3. 76

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

C.I.D. HEADQUARTERS.

POLITICAL BRANCH.

Shanghai, 11: 3: 1929

To

A/D. S.

Translation  
herein.

*[Signature]*

C.P.

Poor report.

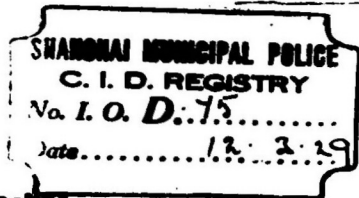
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Refusing unless!

MAK 1 1 1929

*[Signature]*





French Municipal Police.

No. 305/A

CONFIDENTIAL

Shanghai,

March 5, 1929.

Sir,

I have the honour to send you herewith a copy of a report submitted by my Detective Service in connection with the fire in the No. 2 Lane 148 Route des Sœurs and in the course of which Mrs. Glawing, wife of an American officer, met her death.

(Sgd.) Pieri.

To Captain Barrett,  
Commissioner of Police,

S. M. P.

**Criminal Investigation Department,  
Second Division.**

**Shanghai,  
February 26, 1929.**

**Inspector Bardy to the Chief of the Criminal Investigation  
Department.**

I have the honour to report that at about 2 a.m. February 25/4 a fire broke out in the No. 2 Lane 146/A Route des Soeurs. The Fire Brigade was informed at 2.24 a.m. and quickly proceeded to the place where they found flames emerging from several windows of rooms on the second story of the house, west corner. After making the customary dispositions, the firemen made use of a ladder and gained access to the place on fire, it having been reported that a child was there. Mr. Moyere placed a handkerchief in his mouth and without hesitation entered the place. He succeeded in approaching a bed which was in flames and by groping he ascertained that a body was lying on it. He carefully took it into his arms and carried it through the flames to an adjoining verandah. Following upon an inquiry, it was established that the person who had been taken from the burning room was Mrs. Clausen, wife of an American officer of the Army of Occupation of Shanghai and who was living at the address given above.

After 2 hours of work, the firemen, under the direction of their chief Mr. Chapeaux, overcame the flames. The damage done is rather serious and is not covered by insurance. The premises were used as a boardinghouse by Mr. Poliak. The causes of the fire have not been entirely ascertained and appeared to have been accidental. The inquiry has not revealed anything definite.

The body of Mrs. Clausen was removed to the Mortuary of the Municipal Hospital where Dr. Velliet made medical-legal examination. He has issued a certificate for burial which he has personally handed to Lieutenant Evans Fordyce Carleon who attended the examination with the Police. In the evening the body was removed to the Pearson Road Mortuary, International Settlement.

The causes of the fire could not be definitely ascertained during the preliminary investigation. The French Police, who have no complaint whatever, were not in a position to interrogate the person responsible for the accident. As he is an American officer an inquiry has been opened by a Judge of the American Court.

**Sgd:- BARDY.**



GARDE MUNICIPALE

N° 205/A.

CONFIDENTIELLE

Changhai, le 5 Mars 1929

Le Chef de la Garde  
à Monsieur le Capitaine BARNETT  
Commissioner of Police  
Shanghai Municipal Police  
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J'ai l'honneur de vous faire parvenir, ci-joint, la copie d'un rapport établi par mon Service de Sûreté, à la suite de l'incendie survenu au N° 2 Passage 146 Route des Soeurs, et dans lequel a péri Mme CLAUSING, femme d'un Officier Américain.

DCI

Traduction Pierre

Emil

MAR 7 - 1929

Changhai, le 26 Février 1929

2ème. Division

L'inspecteur BARDY

à monsieur le Chef de la Sûreté,

COPIE

J'ai l'honneur de vous rendre compte que dans la nuit du 23 au 24 Février, vers 2 heures du matin, un incendie a éclaté au N° 2 Passage 146 A. Route des Soeurs. Les pompiers alertés à 2 h.24, se sont rapidement rendus sur les lieux et ont constaté que des flammes jaillissaient de plusieurs fenêtres des pièces situées au deuxième étage de la maison et sises à l'angle Ouest. Après avoir pris les dispositions d'usage, les pompiers ont appliqué une échelle et ont pu avoir accès au lieu incendié, un enfant y ayant été signalé. Mr. ROYERE a mis un mouchoir sur sa bouche et sans hésitation y a pénétré. Il a réussi à s'approcher du lit qui brûlait et, à tâtons, a pu se rendre compte qu'un cadavre y gisait. Précautionneusement il l'a pris dans ses bras et au milieu des flammes a pu le transporter sur une véranda attenante. Par la suite et l'enquête, il fut établi que la personne qui avait été retirée de la chambre incendiée était Mme CLAUSENG, femme d'un Officier Américain, du Corps d'Occupation de Shanghai et résidant actuellement à l'adresse précitée.

Après 2 heures d'efforts, les pompiers, dirigés par Mr. le Commandant CHAPEAUX, purent maîtriser le sinistre.

Les dégâts sont assez élevés et ne sont couverts par aucune assurance. La maison incendiée est une pension de famille tenue par Mr. POLIAK.

.....

Les causes de l'incendie n'ont pu être entièrement définies et paraissent être accidentelles. L'enquête n'a pas permis de relever quoi que ce soit de précis.

Le corps de Mme CLAUSING a été transporté à la morgue de l'Infirmerie Municipale où Mr. le Docteur VELLIOT a fait les constatations médico-légales. Il a délivré un permis d'inhumer qu'il a remis lui-même à Mr. le Lieutenant Américain Evans Fordey Carlson, qui, avec nous assistait aux constatations.

Dans la soirée, le corps a été transféré à la morgue de Fearon Road, au Quartier International.

Les causes du sinistre n'ont pu être définies au cours des premières investigations. La Police Française, qui n'était saisie d'aucune plainte, n'avait pas qualité pour interroger l'auteur responsable de l'accident. Ce dernier étant Officier Américain, l'instruction a été ouverte par un Juge siégeant à la Cour Américaine./.

Signé : BARDY.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

REPORT

(Confidential)

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE  
C. I. D. REGISTRY  
No. 100 D. 75  
Gordon Road Station  
Date March 3rd 1928

Subject (in full) Report on enquiries Re No. 134 Sinza Road in connection with the report in the North China Daily News Re the death of Mrs. Clausen.

Made by D.S. McFarlane. Forwarded by Insp. *Charles*

Sir,

With reference to the above I beg to state that enquiries were made at 134 Sinza Road and it was ascertained that the house at that address is known as "Sinza Lodge" and is kept by a Chinese named Wong as a first-class foreign boarding house. The person named Leland is a lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps and has been residing there with his wife since April 1st. 1928.

There are also two other American officers reside at this address and according to the No. 1 "Boy" these men drink rather heavily during holidays, week-ends etc.,

I am

Sir,

Yours obediently

*J. A. McFarlane*  
D.S. 113.

Det. Supt. "B" Division, C.I.D.

*W.H.K.*

*4/15/28*

*Information*

*4/15/28*

*Information re address mentioned in London for case.*

*4/3/28*

*Run*



## Verdict Returned By Jury In Frenchtown Fire Tragedy

A verdict in the case of the mysterious death of Mrs. J. G. Clausing, wife of an American Marine officer, yesterday was returned by a Coroner's jury before Commissioner A. Kriehl in the American Court. Death was caused, the jury found, by causes unknown. Thus ends an inquest which for the past week has held the centre of the news stage of Shanghai. Mrs. Clausing was found dead following a fire at 146A Route des Soeurs, a little more than a week ago.

The first red tongue of flame from that fire, shooting up into a night sky and noted by passers-by, marked the beginning of a double tragedy which has stirred the foreign community. Within the burning house Mrs. Clausing was found dead—under circumstances that breathed of mystery. Lieut. Clausing, her husband, was painfully burned. He died a few days later in the Marine Hospital as the result of infection from his burns.

The verdict and findings of the jury read as follows:

"We, the jury, find that the body examined by us at the International Funeral Directors' Parlours at 71 Kiaochow Road at 4.30

p.m., on February 25, to be that of Routh Lois Clausing, a citizen of the United States of America, and that she came to her death in her apartment at 146A Route des Soeurs between the hours of 11.15 p.m. of February 23, 1929 and 2.50 a.m. of February 24, 1929, through causes unknown. During this time a fire of unknown origin occurred in her apartment from the debris of which her charred remains were later removed."

The coroner then thanked the members of the jury as follows: "Gentlemen of the jury, the coroner fully appreciates the services that you gentlemen have been called upon to make. On being summoned as a jury you promptly laid aside your various businesses and responded to the duty of a jury in investigating the circumstances of this inquest.

"You have very intelligently and thoroughly inquired into this matter. You have given a great deal of your time and attention to it and I am fully convinced that in reaching the verdict you have, that you have done so after a mature deliberation. Your verdict is approved and we desire to thank you very much indeed."

a. C (Pal)

MR. 6 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>29</sub>

VICES: SEE PAGE 13



士 隔 泰

PRICE TEN CENTS

## Lieut. John G. Clausing Passes Away Suddenly At Marine Corps Hospital

HUSBAND OF VICTIM OF ROUTE DES SOEURS  
FIRE DIES FROM SEPTIC POISONING  
FOLLOWING HIS BURNS

WAS TO HAVE TESTIFIED AT INQUEST

Proceedings At U. S. Court Adjourned Until Next  
Tuesday; Witnesses Tell Of Party Held In  
Sinza Road Before Clausings Left

Lieutenant John G. Clausing, of the 4th Regiment, United States Marine Corps, will not be called upon to testify at the inquest at the U. S. Court on the charred body believed to be that of his wife, Mrs. Ruth Clausing, which was recovered from the scene of the fire at 143A Route des Soeurs last Sunday morning. Lieutenant Clausing died suddenly at the Marine Corps hospital yesterday evening, septicæmia, following burns received in the fire, being given as the cause of death. He passed away at 5.15 p.m.

Although suffering from burns received in the fire, Lieutenant Clausing, up until noon yesterday, appeared to be recovering. At noon, however, he collapsed in bed due to a fainting spell. Restoratives were given him and he was revived. Two hours later, he collapsed again and was again revived, but at 5 p.m., he fell into a faint from which he never recovered. Fifteen minutes later, Lieutenant Clausing was dead.

Lieutenant Clausing, it was stated yesterday, was more ill than ever first thought. Although the exact cause of his death could not be determined, it was believed that it was due to the severity of his burns.

*A. D. B. I.  
Information  
J.H.  
a. c. (Pol)  
H.R. 2 3/29.*

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and it might be possible in the  
factory to reduce them still further  
on the economic improvement.  
He added that discipline among  
the troops in China had been ad-  
mirable and that there had been a  
remarkable absence of any regret-  
table incidents. The British troops  
had also got on well with the  
troops of other nations.  
The estimate was agreed to  
practically without a discussion, by  
143 votes to 90.—Renter.

## General Stimson For America

this son, Hip-ling on Mr. ur-est hat he by A. ret-en is ret- of son his tel. John ac-  
Murray, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin S. Cunningham, Dr. and Mrs. C. T. Wang, and others.  
As on Thursday, Mr. Stimson yesterday declined to confirm or deny the reliable report of his appointment to the next Cabinet.  
To a representative of THE SHANGHAI TIMES yesterday the Governor-General stated that he was leaving the East with many regrets; that he has spent a number of years in the Far East and has a large number of friends here.  
Mr. Stimson landed his predecessor, the late Governor-General Leonard Wood, declaring that General Wood loved and understood the peoples of the Islands, and that he had worked untiringly to bring to them peace and contentment. His death, he stated, was a severe blow and a great shock to his millions of Philippine friends.

The body has been removed to the International Funeral Home and a military inquest will be held this afternoon. At the invitation of Colonel Lyman, of the U. S. Marine Corps, Dr. W. E. Nance will sit at the investigation.

The final stages of the inquest at the U. S. Court were reached yesterday, and the proceedings were adjourned for the appearance of Lieut. Clausen, the adjourned date being set for next Tuesday. The news of Lieut. Clausen's death, however, had not reached the inquest authorities when this action was taken.

Capt. J. E. Snow, of the U. S. Marine Corps, was the first to take the witness stand. He had on'y been in Shanghai 45 days he said, and was residing at 124 Sinza Road, in the same house as Lt. Leland. He recalled having some guests early on Saturday evening including Lt. and Mrs. Clausen.

During the evening, Lt. Clausen told Mrs. Clausen to go home remarking "You are tight." She replied that she was not ready. There were no quarrels between the Clausens at his place. She had been drinking beer and he loved some vodka and don't could walk with assistance.

Lt. Clausen intoxicated  
Further evidence regarding the condition Mrs. Clausen was in that evening was furnished by Chief Marine Gunner R. C. Hardy, of the U. S. Marine Corps, who also resides at 124 Sinza Road. Last Saturday afternoon, Mrs. Hardy and he entertained some guests including the Clausens. Some time after the guests had departed he met the Clausens and several other members of the party in Captain Snow's room. Witness lingered there for a while and returned to his own room where he was later joined by Lt. Clausen who appeared to be very intoxicated. Witness gave him some coffee. Lt. Clausen remarked that he had not a car and would return home. Witness then accompanied him to Capt. Snow's room to fetch Mr. Clausen. While they were there he did not hear any argument between Lt. and Mrs. Clausen. Mrs. Clausen was very drunk and practically had to be carried down to the waiting car. He would classify Lt. Clausen's state as the next one to very drunk. There were no embittered feelings between the Lieutenant and his wife but the former appeared to be somewhat disgusted at Mrs. Clausen's condition.

Sergeant J. Ray, of the French police, next deposed that he was on duty at the French central police station early on Sunday morning. At 2.25 a.m. he was informed by police constable Telemont that through the telephone that a fire had broken out at houses one and two in a passageway at 164A Route des Godards. He also receiv-

270.

**THE LOCAL FIRE  
TRAGEDY**

**Request for Witnesses to  
Come Forward**

Mr. Kriegl, United States Commissioner and Coroner, in connection with the sad fatality in Route des Sœurs, would, we are asked to state, appreciate it if any person who witnessed the fire in question and believes he or she has any information of value, would communicate with him or Dr. Sellett, the District Attorney.

a. c. (Pol)

A.R. 1<sup>3</sup>/<sub>29</sub>

Lee

A.P.S.-2  
Information.

JK

2:3:29

## INCIDENTS OF FATAL BLAZE ARE REVIEWED BY WITNESSES

New Disclosures Made  
Regarding Death Of  
Mrs. Clausing

### ENQUIRY ENDING

Testimony Of Husband,  
Now In Hospital,  
Not Yet Given

Before Coroner A. Krisel and a Jury in the U. S. Court for China, the public enquiry into the death of Mrs. J. C. Clausing, wife of First Lieutenant Clausing of the U. S. Marine Corps, was resumed yesterday, and, after lasting all day, was again adjourned until this morning.

The Jury consists of Messrs. C. H. Raven, George Fitch, E. C. Stoeker, Gardner Crane, A. R. Hager, and J. S. Potter. Dr. G. Sellett, U. S. District Attorney, conducted the proceedings.

An interested spectator of the proceedings was Col. G. H. Lyman, commanding the 4th Regiment of the U. S. Marines, who occupied a seat on the Bench, and was frequently in close conversation with Coroner Krisel.

#### COOK TESTIFIES

The cook of 168A Route des Secours testified that on the night preceding the fire, Lieut. Clausing's boy came to the kitchen at 9.30 to prepare some sandwiches, and sent the witness to bed. At about 2 o'clock the next morning the cooile called him up and told him there was a fire in the American's rooms. "I immediately went out to the garden and saw flames, and the fire brigade came at once. I stayed at the front door of the No. 1 house: I saw no body brought out, and I have no knowledge as to how the fire started. I saw no person with burns."

The No. 1 cooile, above referred

(Continued on Page 3, Col. 1.)

INCIDENTS OF FATAL BLAZE ARE REVIEWED BY WITNESSES

# INCIDENTS OF FATAL BLAZE ARE REVIEWED BY WITNESSES

(Continued from Page 2, Col. 5.)

out of the right window, both of the windows were open. He wore striped pajamas such as you may see every day of your life. When I left he was standing outside the verandah rail with his back to them. I am sure he was not wearing trousers. The fire could not have been caused by a candle suddenly blazing. I saw the body taken out of the room and put on the verandah. It was in a blanket, and in trying to get the body out it was not dropped at any time.

**WITNESS ADVISES CORONER.**  
The Coroner: Can you say whether the brigade came in answer to your call, because we have had testimony that the brigade was also called up by a French witness?—I suggest that it would be a good thing if you asked the fire station which called they answered to—the French or the English call.

The witness: Yes, that is a very good suggestion. Thank you.

Vincent Augustus Baker then took the stand, and deposed that he lived in the Estella Apartments on the fifth floor. "I was awakened by my wife on the morning in question, who told me that the fire brigade had arrived and she was not sure that it was not our building that was affected. From our bedroom window we can look down on to the Roux de la France and the passage that leads into the two buildings in question, and I actually saw the flames. When I went to the landlady I saw Miss McCandless who said she was very much vexed because she had seen the fire in the early stages and had endeavored to telephone but could not get through to the exchange and she felt that if she had been able to get them earlier it might have saved the house. At that time, we didn't know there was anybody on the verandah. She did not mention about seeing anybody on the verandah.

I did not see anybody being carried out of the building. I saw the firemen attempting to get down the ladder with a ladder which they had brought out of the room; they failed to do so and they laid it down on the verandah. I did not see any man standing near the entrance gate in a shirt and a pair of trousers. I have never spoken to anyone who did see a man on the verandah as Miss McCandless testified. It was not the sound of whistles that woke my wife up. It was the arrival of the fire brigade."

Coroner: Thank you, a candidate for the witness stand.

There were only three or four quart bottles of beer, and no other intoxicating liquors were drunk that I saw. I have seen Mrs. Clausen go to a sideboard and drink, while other people were not drinking, but I did not see her do so on this occasion, although there were opportunities for her to do so. The Clausens left with me, and we all went to another friend's house arriving there about 8.30, where there was a party of 10 in all. We had Martini cocktails to drink there. I stayed about three quarters of an hour. The lady with whom I was with and myself left at about 7.30. We only had two or three cocktails each to drink, and at the time we left neither Mr. nor Mrs. Clausen were intoxicated.

"We then went to Capt. Snow's quarters, which are in the same house, and Mr. and Mrs. Clausen were also there, making a party of five. That was at about 7 o'clock, and I left at 8.30, and the Clausens about fifteen minutes after we did. Not more than two quart bottles of beer was drunk, at which both Mr. and Mrs. Clausen had a portion.

There was Dean and vodka there on the dresser, over in the corner of the room.

Dr. Sollet: Have you any reason to believe that Mrs. Clausen helped herself to liquor at that time?—I didn't see her do it.

At the time you left, would you think Mrs. Clausen was intoxicated or not?—She could walk at that time, but I should say it would not take much more to make her intoxicated. I have seen her drinking before, and have seen her intoxicated, and it didn't take much to make her intoxicated. I have never known LAURA Clausen and his wife to quarrel or disagree violently, and I have never heard Mrs. Clausen say anything about suicide, although she has said that she would never leave China. They had different ideas: I think she wanted to go out to parties, and he didn't. I have never known LAURA Clausen to drink so much that he could not remember what had occurred afterwards. I have never heard that he had lost his memory whilst in that condition.

Dr. Sollet: There is evidence that shortly after 10 o'clock, at the time they arrived home, Mrs. Clausen was so drunk as to be unable to get out of the motor without assistance, and she required assistance to go up to her own room, and was so intoxicated

when she got there that she did sit on a chair but on the floor. Would you say at the time when the snow she was that intoxicated?—Well I have seen her a dinner, and have played her with her eyes night, and she apparently alright, yet she went into the bathroom, came out and sat on the floor.

Would it surprise you to be assuming that LAURA Clausen taken no more drink than you saw him take, that he very intoxicated at 12 o'clock?—Yes.

This witness concluded his testimony by asserting that he considered that the body which had been seen was that of Mrs. Clausen, because he identified the two gold molar teeth which were found in her mouth.

**REQUEST FOR WITNESSES.**  
Mr. Krist, the Coroner, appreciated it if any person witnessed the fire, and believed that he or she has any information of value, would communicate with him, or Dr. Sollet, the U. S. District Attorney, at the U. S. District Court, 11 Whampee Street.

The proceedings then terminated until this morning at 10 o'clock.

## Wayside Robber

Five men of which two armed, entered a house on Hing Road late yesterday and stole a considerable amount of money and property. There are arrests reported.

## PIMPLES BROKE OUT ON CHES

Burning and Itching Cuticura Heals

"I was troubled with small pimples that broke out on my cheeks and on my neck, and on my arms. The itching and burning was so bad that I could not sleep. I used Cuticura and in a few days the pimples were all gone. I was so happy that I wrote you about the size of my face."

"I read an advertisement for Cuticura and I bought a box. After using it for a few days I was so happy that I wrote you about the size of my face. I was so happy that I wrote you about the size of my face."

The Cuticura to heal skin was so good that I wrote you about the size of my face. I was so happy that I wrote you about the size of my face."

...the body was taken out of the room and put on the verandah. It was in a blanket, and in trying to get the body out it was not dropped at any time.

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# INCIDENTS OF FATAL BLAZE ARE REVIEWED BY WITNESSES

(Continued from Page 1, Col. 8.)

to also depose that it was his duty to keep clean the rooms occupied by Lieut. Clausung and his wife.

"Last Saturday night at about 10 o'clock I saw Mrs. Clausung. The boy took her upstairs, helping the lady because she was drunk. The master also was drunk, but better than the Missus. He could walk himself. I didn't see the Missus again. I went to sleep and woke up hearing whistles. I looked out of the window and saw red so I went to the back door, and saw there were flames burning through the windows of Mr. Clausung's rooms. I woke up the cook. I saw the Russian lady who lives on the first floor in the hall. I used to put coal on the fire in Mr. Clausung's room. There was coal in the coal receptacle. I didn't see two men carrying out another man or body."

George Pollak testified that Mrs. Haquardt, after he had told her, and, showing her a watch, asked if it was hers. She didn't know who the gentleman was, but she described the watch which he had lost. "I have heard what has been said about two men carrying out another, but I have not the slightest idea as to who it could have been."

## MORE ABOUT THE WATCH

Alexander Pollak, sworn, stated that he first heard of Mrs. Haquardt having seen someone with a watch that answered the description of his brother's watch. He did not pay much attention to it, but afterwards the told me she saw two men carrying out another man. I asked her if she had told the police, and she said: No. I heard Miss Nora Reuter testify yesterday, and her mother, about seeing the American, Lieut. Clausung, while the fire was going on, and I heard on Tuesday about 12 o'clock the same thing from Mrs. Haquardt. I saw one or two policemen whistling, and I heard a lot of noise of people outside, but I heard no noise in the vicinity of Lieut. Clausung's room, and I saw nobody go up to his room. I saw no man fully dressed in a blue suit or a blue sailor's uniform go up to his room. I saw no person at any time; I saw no one around the house anywhere that would answer the description of those three men—one being carried and two carrying him. I cannot account in any way for the story of two men carrying a third man. I heard no sound of a whistle being blown from an elevation.

## TELL US THE TRUTH

The Coroner: We ask you to tell us all the truth. Is there nothing else that you now remember that you can tell us?—I have told all the truth that I know.

We want to know all that you know about this thing. Have you overlooked telling us something?—There were thieves, or robbers, in house No. 1 because the lock of one of the tenants' rooms was broken; it was broken after he had left the premises, after the fire, but as far as I know nothing was stolen; there was an attempt to break a door in the attic of No. 1 house, but so far as I know there was nothing stolen in house No. 2."

Are you sure that when you were up in your cousin's room at about 11:30 you didn't hear any noises whatever in the Clausung's rooms?

You heard that Miss Reuter and her mother testified that they heard noises in the direction of Clausung's room?—I heard that, but I didn't hear any such noises at any time that night.

Miss Nora Reuter, who gave such important evidence yesterday, was recalled for further questioning, and, in answer to the District Attorney, stated that when she first saw Lieut. Clausung, while the fire was going on, the brigade had already arrived.

Where was Clausung when you first saw him?—Near the entrance gate; he had his hands in his pockets, and he did not take them out of his pockets; I saw his burnt arms, and I do not recall his singlet as being stained or dirtied. It was not even burnt; it was a white sleeveless one.

## ADVICE TO CLAUSEUNG

What conversation did you have with him?—I came up to him, and I said: Are you the American man from upstairs? He said: Yes. I said: Where is your wife? He said: She is out. I said: What are you doing here you are all burnt up; you ought to go and see a doctor at the hospital. He said: Alright, I will go, and he then left me.

You didn't ask him any other questions?—No, nothing else.

Are you sure you saw him after

the man was carried out, or before?—After.

The Coroner: You said yesterday you heard noises in the direction of Clausung's room?—Yes, ever over my head. It was about one hour after I heard them come in that I heard the noises.

Did you just hear one distinct noise, or did it continue?—It continued a little while as if things were falling down. There were loud noises I am sure that those noises came from the top floor; it was over our head before the fire took place, though how long before, I cannot estimate.

What did you think these noises you heard were?—I thought they were fighting, being intoxicated, and not knowing what they were doing; there was rushing about the room; chairs falling over; all kinds of noises.

## DOCTOR'S TESTIMONY

J. A. Perez, Lieutenant in the U.S. Marine medical corps, testified that he had had 12 years experience, and had been in Shanghai since 1922, and had known Lieut. Clausung ever since he had been here, but he did not recall his wife.

"I saw him last Saturday morning," said the doctor, "at about 8:45 in bed in the regimental hospital. When I went on duty at 8:30 I was informed by the pharmacist's mate of the day of what had happened. Soon after I went to his room and gave him a cursory examination; he was then in bandages, which later on I changed. When I first saw him he was able to speak; he was mentally clear for a man who had received burnt injuries; he didn't seem to be under the influence of a drug. I asked him how he felt, and he said, 'Pretty well.' I didn't ask him how he got his injuries. His wife was not mentioned at all; the impression I got was that he was rather calm. He didn't appear to be worried."

He did not ask me any questions at all about his wife. About half an hour later I saw him again, when I took all of the dressings off. Dr. Reid, also of the U.S. Navy, was with me at the time and assisted in the dressing. I saw him three or four times every day; the first time I saw all of his burns, and the second time only part of them."

District Attorney: Describe, as accurately as you can, just what his burns are. "The right hand was burnt on the dorsal side and the inner palm; there was one burn on each of three fingers, and a burn about the middle of the palm. The back of the whole hand is badly burnt, from the right side up to the shoulder. There no burns on the inner side of the arm. The burns are what would be described as superficial. There was a rather severe burn on the back of the neck and the right ear was blistered. There were slight burns on the back and face; the hair of the head was slightly singed all over. All the dressing was on the upper part of the body; there were no burns on the front of the body."

How do you think those burns were caused? From heat or actual contact with fire? I should say he came in contact with flame; I think that, because of the degree of the burns.

Dr. Perez was shown, by the At-

torney, a singlet which had been taken from Lieut. Clausung's body and which was alleged to have been worn when the fire occurred.

Assumed that a man had those burns in the places and manner you have described, could he have been wearing this singlet, do you think? "No, if he had had this singlet on it would have shown signs of the burning."

Then you would think that he put the singlet on after he had sustained the burns? Yes.

Look at the back of the singlet about the place where the shoulder blade would be. What do you think of that stain there? Possibly it is the exudation from burns, but there is a case of what looks like skin attached to it. It is my opinion that Lieut. Clausung could not have had this singlet on at the time he sustained those burns.

## EXTRAORDINARY SILENCE

At the first meeting when Lieut. Clausung told you he was all right, did he say anything to you as to how he received his injuries? Nothing. There was also no conversation whatsoever at the second meeting, and on all the subsequent days that I saw him he never mentioned his injuries to me and never discussed with him his injuries nor had any conversation with him at all.

The Coroner: Didn't you hear anybody talk to him about his injuries? I heard an officer talk to him while I was there, and I understood him to say that he didn't know why Mrs. Clausung had gone back into the room. I didn't hear him say to the officer that he knew Mrs. Clausung had gone back to his room. I am not sure who the officer was. Part of the top surface, extending to the back of the head, was singed, and his head would not have been so singed had he been lying on his back on a pillow, and if he had been lying on his side it would leave a portion of his hair, on that side, unsinged, but I noticed that his whole head was singed. The fingers of the right hand looked as if they had been bleeding. The burn in the left palm might have been caused by getting hold of a hot door-knob or if he had got hold of an iron rod. I understood from him that the burn in the hand was due to trying to open something either a trunk or a locker.

## SOME SUPPOSITIONS

Dr. Bellitt: Suppose a man were lying in bed asleep and the bed caught fire—such a fire as would be caused by a match or a cigarette—no gasoline or anything like that about—do you think it possible that a man in normal condition would not be awakened until he was burnt to the extent that you discovered Lieut. Clausung was burnt? I think he would have been aroused very much earlier.

Suppose Lieut. Clausung had had a great deal to drink; that he had his last drink not later than 9:30 p.m., and that he went to bed a few hours later and was aroused by the fire about 2:15, or 2:30 a.m.—almost five hours later—do you think a man might still be so much under the influence of the liquor that he had taken five hours before that he would be unable to the extent that he would not be aroused by these flames, as early as you would expect him to be?—I don't think so; I think the only way it could probably happen is that he should have been in such a state of intoxication as to have produced coma.

Suppose a man like Lieut. Clausung had a large quantity of liquor before 9 and 9:30, and he remained awake until, say, 12:30, and then

went to bed without anything to drink in that intervening time, do you think it at all possible that coma would be induced after the lapse of that period?—It is possible, but very improbable; coma usually follows close upon the consumption of liquor.

And not two or three hours later?—It might take one or two hours; it all depends upon the person.

Supposing a woman had had a considerable quantity to drink, so that she was very much intoxicated, and unable to control her movements, and after a period of two or three hours she went to bed and then was subjected to this ordeal by fire; do you think it possible that she might be burnt to death without even being aware that there was fire?—I think it might be possible.

Even though she was awake until at least as late as 11:30?—I think it is possible that she was asleep, and in such a state that the flames in the room might overcome her.

Could a man rush through a burning room, with the room all in flames, and only have his hair singed?—I don't think so; it all depends how fast he went through the room.

## ANOTHER WITNESS

Miss Edith J. C. McCandless, who, sworn, stated that she was Irish then gave evidence to the effect that she was employed in the Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation. "On Saturday I was out at the Majestic and reached my room in the Estrella Apartments, on the corner of Route des Sports and Avenue Joffre at 1:15 p.m. I live on the 8th floor, and after 12 o'clock we have to walk up. I was putting my key in the door, when I saw coming from a house in the Court just below a sheet of flame."

## MAN ON THE VERANDAH

"I stood there looking, and soon afterwards I saw a man on the verandah to his pyjamas. He was whistling; he was not shouting. He was trying to get over the rails, which he succeeded in doing, but he was not able to get down. The window happened to be open, and I shouted out to him to wait a minute, ran down the stairs, and saw a lot of Chinese in the street, whom I told to go to the house and help. Then I ran upstairs again, opened my door and tried to telephone. All this time the man was still whistling. As soon as I got to my room, I went to the telephone, but I was an awfully long time in getting connected. Eventually I got on to the French Police station, and told them there was a fire near my apartments, but I could not say where, but that they could send out. The man said he understood, and in five minutes thereafter the fire brigade arrived. In the meantime, the man had disappeared, and was out on the balcony any longer I don't know how he got away."

## WOMAN'S SCREAMS

"I heard a woman scream two or three times, but whether from doubtfulness or not I couldn't say."

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When I first saw the man on the balcony I did not see there were no lights in the building at all, and the man must evidently have felt that he was trapped. The woman's screams I heard heard to come from the window of the room where the flames were. One of the screams was loud and two rather faint. They were screams of someone thoroughly frightened."

"I was on my verandah looking out, and saw all the I have related; I could feel the heat, and during all the time that I stayed—about three minutes—the man was on the verandah. He was well built, of a average height, and, I should judge, young. I saw everything very clearly. I did not see any body carried on, through the Court-yard. I could not see distinctly the features of the man on the verandah, and I thought he was a Chinese. When I saw the fire first there was nobody on the verandah, and he seemed to come

(Continued on Page 4, Col. 8.)

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# SUNDAY MORNING FIRE TRAGEDY

**Sensational Testimony Given at U. S. Commissioner's Inquiry: Medical Evidence Concerning Alleged Injury to Mrs. Clausing's Skull**

## STRANGE STORY BY FELLOW LODGER

**Question of Unconsciousness During Blaze Dealt with by Medical Men Under Examination**

Marked by new and sensational testimony offered by witnesses, plus conflicting evidence introduced by several spectators of the dramatic happenings and a surgeon's deposition of findings that visibly stirred an already tensed courtroom, the inquest on the body of Mrs. John G. Clausing who was burned beyond recognition in a fire at her home on Sunday morning was resumed at the American Court for China yesterday before Commissioner Alexander Krisel sitting as coroner and a jury composed of Messrs. Charles Raven, Gardner Crane, E. C. Stocker, John S. Potter, George Fitch and A. R. Hager. U. S. Attorney George Sellett conducted the case for the United States.

The first witness called at the morning session was M. M. Chapeaux, Commander of the Volunteer Fire Brigade of the French Concession who stated that a telephone message was received at the brigade headquarters at about 2.24 a.m. on the morning of the 24th inst. that a house at 146A Route des Soeurs was on fire. Witness proceeded immediately with the first units under his command and found flames pouring from a third floor

window. The unit immediately went to work and in about 15 to 20 minutes had the conflagration under such control that ladders were placed against the windows in the front of the house and Mr. Royere, Chief of the Fire Brigade ascended and entered the room. Special haste was made to get into the blazing structure as a youthful Russian had told him that a child had been left there by its parents.

### The Body Discovered

On entering the room Mr. Royere found a body from which the legs were missing. He removed it to the verandah and soon after it was sent away in an ambulance to the French Mortuary. The witness could give little opinion on the origin of the fire as it was so intense as to obliterate all evidence.

Mr. Royere then took the stand and corroborated the evidence of his predecessor. He stated that on entering the room he could not see because of the smoke, but groped around and struck against the bed on which by feeling as best he could he came upon the body which he immediately picked up and took outside. He noticed the legs were missing and went back for them. One was on the bed and the other lying some several feet away. Whether the body struck anything while he was removing it he could not answer, but it was possible that it had, as the passageway was extremely narrow, and the space which he traversed was very dark. The room was badly gutted and he did not feel capable of giving any opinion as to the fire's origin because there was little left on which to base an opinion. He expressed the belief that it could have been caused by a lighted match, cigarette, or any similar lighted object.

### Charred Almost Beyond Recognition

Dr. K. W. Nance was next called and told of having examined the body on Monday at the mortuary and having found it so badly charred as to be almost beyond recognition. The only part untouched by the flames was the back and he believed this to be because the body was on its back during the fire. The hands were detached and the legs were severed about the knees. He stated it was the body of a woman but that there was little

*a. c. (Pal)*

*This seems a case of murder.*

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Later in the day he returned for a closer examination and found that part of the skull was missing, the frontal region was gone, and it was evident to him that this was due to having been burned away, confirming his belief because he noticed the edges were broken away and exposed fresh bone in one or two places. There was a fracture line running along the left temple and over the eyeball and another fracture was found on the right side of the face.

On Tuesday in company with Dr. Manion U. S. N., attached to the 4th Regt. Marines, he again examined the body and held still another investigation on Wednesday. On the latter day he wanted to bring part of the skull to Court to introduce as evidence but found that by the slightest handling it crumbled to pieces and he could not achieve his object.

#### No Explosion of Skull

The brain was completely exposed and when questioned as to the possibility of the moisture inside the skull becoming heated and causing an explosion that would cause the fracture, he scouted the theory. He stated that the fracture over the left eye could quite conceivably have occurred before the fire and it was his opinion that such a fracture could have been caused most likely by a heavy blunt instrument. He was not in agreement with a suggestion of the jury that the fracture could have been caused by the fire or by the striking of the head against some hard object during its removal from the room.

As a means of identification he noted especially two gold-capped teeth and he knew the body was that of a woman but beyond that there was no way of identifying the remains.

Also he expressed as an impossibility the belief that anyone no matter in what degree of intoxication could have remained on a bed with a fire raging in the vicinity and said that the mere entry of smoke into the lungs which would result in suffocation, would undoubtedly have caused the regaining of consciousness. He said the first evidence of suffocation was a violent coughing and this would tend to bring the person to the full power of his or her senses. He did not believe that anyone could have force of character or determination enough to remain willingly on a bed and be burned to death and he thought impossible the suggestion of suicide.

Dr. Manion was the next witness called and stated that he had active-

(Continued on Page 16.)